

C R O N E R

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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THE SEVENTY-FOURTHANNUAL REPORTOF THEMEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHFOR THEYEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st1958

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CROMER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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CROMER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
Year Ended 31st December, 1958

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

In my acting capacity as Medical Officer of Health of the District due to Dr. Norbury's unfortunate illness, I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1958.

It will be appreciated that, in these circumstances, the Report must necessarily be brief. It is confined mainly to the statistical records bearing on the public health of the District and to the environmental factors which have been dealt with in the report submitted by the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector which is attached to this Report. (Part II)

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Haigh and the Staff of the Local Health Office of the Area for their assistance in the compilation of this Report.

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. CRICHTON C.I.E.,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Acting M. O. H.

PART I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in Acres	1,158
Population (Estimated)	4,900
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,787
Rateable Value	£76,887
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£309

1. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A popular seaside resort, noted for its bracing healthy climate, situated on the North Norfolk Coastline about midway between Mundesley and Weybourne.

The Cromer Urban District is bounded on the East, South and West by the Erpingham Rural District and on the North by the sea.

2. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) <u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	25	30	55
Illegitimate	4	1	5
	<u>29</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>60</u>

(b) Percentage of Illegitimate Births ... 8.1%. The figure for the preceding Year was 7.7%

(c) Live Birth Rate ... 12.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which is lower than the birth rate in 1957 which was 15.7. The corrected birth rate, after application of the comparability factor (1.09) is 13.2 per 1,000 as compared with 17.1 in the preceding year.

(d) Still Births ... There was only one Still Birth, a male who was illegitimate.

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births, was therefore 16.3 as against 16.5 in 1957.

(e) Infant Deaths ... Three deaths occurred in children under one year of age. Two were males, the other a female. All were legitimate.

(f) Infant Mortality Rates ... The Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 50, which compares with 25.9. in 1957 and 17.5 in 1956. Although any increase in these rates cannot be welcomed, their relation to a ratio of 1,000 magnifies them to an extent which may alarm the layman. In actual fact, the number of children dying under one year of age, as has been stated was 3; in 1957 it was 2 and in 1956 only one.

As one of these children died in the first four weeks of life, the neonatal mortality rate for the year was 16.6 per 1,000 live births compared with 26.2 in 1957. There were no deaths among illegitimate infants.

(g) The Causes of Death

The number of deaths occurring among residents of the District and their causes are shown in the table below. It is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from pregnancy or childbirth, or from tuberculosis or from any infective or parasitic disease. It is not surprising in a year which was marked by an Influenza Epidemic that 12 deaths occurred from Pneumonia and 2 from Bronchitis. Respiratory Diseases, in fact, account for 17.2% of all deaths. Diseases of the heart accounted for 33.3% of all deaths; Cancer for 9.1% and Vascular lesions of the nervous system for 18.3%.

The causes of deaths were as follows :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Cancer of the Stomach	1	-	1
Lung & Bronchial Passages	1	-	1
Breast	-	2	2
Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic growths ...	2	2	4
Leukaemia & Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	9	7	16
Coronary disease & Angina	8	6	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	7	6	13
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	2	5
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	5	7	12
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	-	1	1
Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other Diseases & ill-defined Diseases..	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	-	-	-
 TOTAL	 48	 39	 87

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 17, much the same as that in the preceding Year, when it was 17.3. The corrected death rate, after application of the comparability factor, was 19.5 compared with 12.28 in 1957.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) The number and character of the infectious diseases which occurred in the District during 1958 are shewn in the following table :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>3-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25 & over</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
T.B. Pulmonary	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox	-	2	-	5	-	-	1	8
Measles	-	4	1	5	1	-	-	11
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Infectious Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<u>Totals</u>		6	2	10	2	2	1	23

This is an appreciably smaller number than that obtaining in 1957, when it was 59, and still more so than that of 1956, when it was 99.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS ... Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. Both were females, aged 12 and 21. There were also four "inward transfers". At the end of the year the number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register was 24. The details are as shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Male	10	3	13
Female	8	3	11
	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>24</u>

The number "remaining" last year was 28. It was 29 in 1956; 31 in 1955 and 34 in 1954.

B. C. G. Vaccination

Children in their fourteenth year were offered B. C. G. vaccination; 130 children in the Cromer Secondary Modern School accepted and were tested with Tuberculin. Of these, 32 were positive reactors - a Tuberculin index of 24.5% - and the remainder (98) were vaccinated with B. C. G. vaccine.

(c) POLIOMYELITIS ... 3,255 persons in the Area received two injections of Poliomyelitis vaccine during the year. Of these, 1151 were pre-school children, 1,745 were children of schoolage; 161 were adolescents, 105 were expectant mothers and the remainder General Medical Practitioners and their families, hospital and ambulance staff. In addition, 1123 persons received their third dose, which was authorised during the year. Thus the programme involved 7,593 injections.

(d) SMALLPOX VACCINATION ... Figures are only available on an Area basis. These show a slight decrease on the number of vaccinations carried out in the preceding year, as Poliomyelitis vaccination was given priority over all other forms of immunisation. The number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out during 1958 were as follows :-

Age at 31.12.58.	Under							15 and over	Total
	1	1	2	3	4	5-14			
Primary Vaccinations	193	10	2	3	1	8	22		239
Re-vaccinations	-	2	5	3	1	19	53		83

(e) IMMUNISATIONS ... The number of children in the Area protected against Diphtheria, either singly (2) or in combination with Whooping Cough (103) or in combination with both Whooping Cough and Tetanus Vaccine was 231 compared with 243 in 1957. The majority of these were infants and toddlers and only six school age children had primary courses. 10 children of school age received "booster" doses.

It should be noted that combined antigens (vaccines) are not considered advisable during the Poliomyelitis "Season" because of the risk of the infection provoking an attack in a person infected with the virus though not manifesting any symptoms.

The total number of children of school age who have been immunised against Diphtheria, singly or in combination with other vaccines, since the inception of the scheme in 1944 was 3919 by the end of 1958. Of these, 1391 had also received "booster" doses.

Immunisation against Tetanus alone was carried out in 40 children under 15 years of age and in 25 adolescents during the year.

PART II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

THE REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

1. Sanitary Inspections of the Area:

The following inspections were carried out :-

House to House Inspections	149
Inspections under Housing Acts	34
Inspections of Nuisances discovered	15
Re-inspection to ascertain Progress	15
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	5
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	74
Inspections under Factories and Workshops Acts	13
Re-inspections	13
Inspection of tenements	24
Inspection of Foodshops other than Dairies and Bakehouses	749
Premises disinfected	1
Rooms disinfected	3
Drainage systems tested	39
Committee Meetings attended	12
Preliminary Notices served	11
Legal Proceedings taken	Nil
Premises found to be defective by house to house Inspection	27
Premises found to be defective by Workshop Inspection.	Nil
Premises found to be defective by Tenement Inspection.	Nil
Statutory Notices served	Nil
Housing - No Court Action taken	Nil

2. Housing ... The erection of Council houses is now at a standstill and one must note that the present rents are a serious drain on the pockets of people not in receipt of industrial incomes.

The average of private persons erecting houses for their own needs is being maintained, but a shortage of building sites in the right locality may hamper this movement in the near future.

3. Slum Clearance ... Steady progress was continued during the year in this connection, the tendency being towards improvement and re-construction rather than demolition.

4. Food Inspection ... Continuous inspection of meat and other foods has been carried out during the year and the standard of food offered for sale continues to be good. I wish to acknowledge the ready co-operation of the firms engaged in this trade, both Wholesale and Retail.

5. Slaughter Houses ... There are no Licensed Slaughter Houses in the District.

6. Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

The following inspections were carried out to ensure conformity with the regulations prescribed for health :-

1 Premises	2 Number on Register	Number of		
		3 Inspect- -ions	4 Written Notices	5 Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4.& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	21	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	8	3	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding Out-Workers Premises)	3	3	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	32	13	Nil	Nil

X. Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Act, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Factories Acts (cont).

Cases in which defects were found in the factories on inspection and the manner in which these were dealt with are tabulated as follows :-

Particulars 1	No. of Cases in which defects were found					No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted. 6	
	Found 2	Remedied 3	Referred TO H.M. Inspector 4		BY H.M. Inspector 5		
Want of Cleanliness S.1.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Overcrowding S.2.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Unreasonable Temperature. S.3.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Inadequate Ventilation. S.4.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Ineffective drainage of floors. S.6.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Sanitary Conveniences S.7.							
(a) insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Other offences against the Act (including offences relating to outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
TOTAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	

7. Water

Samples of raw and chlorinated water were taken from the Metton Pumping Station at intervals during the year and the analysis carried out proved that this source of water continues to be of very high purity. Satisfactory reports were received on all the samples submitted.

J. A. HAIGH
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

